

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 W

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R 140853Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3047

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 6307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IS

SUBJECT: OIL DRILLING AT ASHDOD THREE

REF: TEL AVIV 6044

1. YEDIOT ON SEPT. 10 REPORTED THAT CLEAR OIL SIGNS WERE FOUND AT ASHDOD THREE AT A DEPTH OF 2,600 METERS IN A DOLOMITE ROCK STRATUM WHICH IN PRELIMINARY TESTING WAS FOUND TO BE 300 METERS DEEP.

2. THE JERUSALEM POST REPORTED ON SEPT. 12 THAT OIL HAD BEEN FOUND AT ASHDOD THREE AND QUOTED INFORMED OBSERVERS AS SAYING THE NEWS WAS "THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE HELETZ" FIELD. HOWEVER, CHANAH, THE OIL EXPLORATION (INVESTMENT) COMPANY, MERELY CONFIRMED THE STRIKE AND SAID THAT OIL HAD BEEN EXTRICATED "FROM THE SAME OIL-YIELDING STRATA AS AT ASHDOD TWO."

3. EMBOFF SPOKE TO LAPIDOTH (ISRAEL OIL PROSPECTORS CORPORATION MANAGING DIRECTOR YASUR ON SEPT. 13, WHO REITERATED VIEW IN REFTEL THAT MEDIA SPECULATION ON ASHDOD THREE OIL FIND WAS EXAGGERATED, INACCURATE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS.

4. EMBOFF ALSO SPOKE TO CHANAH MANAGING DIRECTOR R. GOLDIS, WHO STATED THAT THERE WAS AS YET NOTHING TO DISCUSS REGARDING ASHDOD THREE. GOLDIS ALSO MADE POINT THAT MEDIA'S REPORTAGE OF ASHDOD THREE DEVELOPMENTS WAS INACCURATE. TRACES OF OIL WERE FOUND THERE, BUT NOT AS OF YET ANYTHING EVEN COMPARABLE TO RESULTS OF ASHDOD TWO. MOREOVER, DRILLING WAS STILL CONTINUING.

5. ANOTHER SOURCE, AN AMERICAN ENGAGED IN TEST DRILLING NORTH OF CAESARIA, TOLD US THAT HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS HAD FOUND "A SMALL OIL POOL" AT ASHDOD BUT IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE ITS SIGNIFICANCE COULD BE DETERMINED.
TOON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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